



Help for Military Families

Governor Janet Napolitano believes the State of Arizona should take all necessary and appropriate steps to assist troops and their families who face potential added expenses and disruptions caused by being called to active duty in the nation's ongoing war against terrorism and military action in Iraq. On March 19, 2003 the Governor issued an Executive Order and directed the following:

1. All State agency heads shall review agency policies to assess whether they can and should be modified to provide additional protections and/or benefits to state employees who have been called to active military duty since September 2002;
2. The Directors of Homeland Security and the Department of Public Safety shall assess the impact of military call-ups on first responders, including law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics and the readiness of our cities and counties to perform their duties and to respond to Homeland Security needs;
3. The Director of the Department of Administration and the Adjutant General of the Arizona Guard shall examine pay differential for exempt state employees between state salary and military salary and make recommendations as to appropriate adjustments that should be made to assist exempt state employees who have been called to active military duty since September 2002;
4. The Director of the Department of Administration shall provide draft legislation to expand A.R.S. section 41-783(17)(a) to apply to military personnel to allow the transfer of accumulated leave from one employee to another employee in state government;
5. The Director of the Department of Administration shall extend the continuity of health care and life insurance benefits for at least 12 months to state employees called up for military active duty;
6. The Director of the Department of Insurance shall take appropriate measures to protect the rights of military personnel to continue, suspend or convert health insurance benefits during times of active duty;
7. The Director of the Department of Health Services and applicable State Boards shall provide automatic extensions for health care and other relevant professional licenses to military personnel who are engaged in active duty;
8. The Director of the Department of Transportation shall provide a one-year exemption for vehicle license tax and registration fees and implement measures to expedite services to military personnel while engaged in active duty.
9. The Arizona State Parks Board shall provide free or reduced admission to Arizona State parks for Reserve, National Guard and state militia troops and their families;
10. The Adjutant General of the Arizona National Guard shall establish and publicize a listing of merchants who agree to provide price discounts for merchandise and services for all military personnel;
11. The Arizona Boards of Regents and the Chancellors of the state community college systems shall evaluate the financial feasibility of providing children, spouses, and dependents of Arizona Military personnel killed during the war on terrorism or possible military action in Iraq, as well as severely disabled combat survivors, with undergraduate awards to cover the costs of attending institutions of the State universities.
12. The Director of the Department of Revenue shall review and ensure full compliance with federal law extending tax return filing dates and other required payments and reports for military personnel serving in a combat zone.

If you experience any problems with a state agency please contact: Melodee Jackson, Director, Office of Constituent Services, Office of the Governor 602-542-2248 mjackson@az.gov